

Political Science 110EB
American Political Thought: Civil War to Civil Rights

Professor David Leitch
MWF, 1-2 PM, York 2622

Course Description: This course intends to give you a variety of ways of approaching the question: what does it mean to be an American? We will do this through a survey of historical debates over and attempts to answer this question, beginning with the build-up to the Civil War, and ending in contemporary (post 9/11/01) times. This course is **not** intended to give you answers to questions regarding American identity (quite the contrary, one way to measure its success might be how it confused it makes you, initially). Instead, my goal is to draw out the political implications of the question of American identity and some of the answers available in order to allow you to formulate your own answers.

Requirements: This course focuses on writing. As such, the bulk, but not entirety, of my evaluation will be based on a 6-10 page paper and a 6-10 take-home final exam. The grade breakdown is:

20% weekly summaries
40% midterm paper (due 5/4 in class)
40% take-home final (due via email at the final time)

Office Hours: My office hours will be from 11-1 on Mondays. You can also contact me via email at dleitch@ucsd.edu; if these office hours won't work for you, we can try to set an appointment up for a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday prior to class.

Reading Schedule:

Week 1 – Birth of the Nation

3/30 – Introduction
4/1 – Federalist Paper 10
4/3 – Class cancelled

Week 2 – Birth of the Nation (cont'd)

4/6 – *Marbury v Madison* (1803)
4/8 – Missouri Compromise (1820)
4/10 – *Dred Scott v Sanford* (1857)

Week 3 – Civil War

4/13 – Hammond, “Mud-Sill Speech”; selections from Calhoun, “Disquisition on Government”
4/15 – Douglass, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?”
4/17 –Seventh Lincoln-Douglas debate

Week 4 – Civil War (cont'd)

4/20 – Lincoln, “Speech to the Temperance Union”
4/22 – Lincoln, “Gettysburg Address”; Thucydides, “Pericles's Funeral Oration” from History of the Peloponnesian War
4/24 – Lincoln, “Emancipation Proclamation”

Week 5 – Civil War and Reconstruction

4/27 – Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the US Constitution
4/29 – Twain, A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
5/1 – Twain, A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (cont'd)

Week 6 – Reconstruction and a New Economic Agenda

5/4 – Midterm paper due
5/6 – Sumner, selections from What the Social Classes Owe to One Another
5/8 – Veblen, selections from Theory of the Leisure Class

Week 7 – The Supreme Court

5/11 – *Plessy v Ferguson* (1896); *Lochner v New York* (1905)
5/13 – *Schenck v United States* (1919); *Debs v United States* (1919)
5/15 – *Abrams v United States* (1919); *Brandenburg v Ohio* (1969)

Week 8 – Civil Rights

5/18 – Washington, “Atlanta Exposition Address”
5/20 – Du Bois, selections from The Souls of Black Folks
5/22 – *Brown v Board of Education* (both 1954 and 1956)

Week 9 – Civil Rights (cont'd)

5/25 – Memorial Day
5/27 – King, Jr., “Letter From a Birmingham City Jail”
5/29 – HR 7152 (Civil Rights Act of 1964)

Week 10 – Modern Times

6/1 – HR 3162 (PATRIOT Act)
6/3 – Elsea, “Detention of American Citizens as Enemy Combatants”, p. 2-28 and 40-55
6/5 – Final day; catch up and rousing final speech